

Robison Farms, Inc.

Spur 56 - P.O. Box 36
Ailey, Georgia 30410
(912) 583-4532 • 1-800-892-3412

TO: MR. William T. Sessions
Associate Deputy Administrator

FROM: John L. Robison, JR
Robison Farms, Inc

RE: COUNTRY OF ORIGIN Labeling: Pecans

Robison Farms, Inc.

Spur 56 - P.O. Box 36

Ailey, Georgia 30410

(912) 583-4532 • 1-800-892-3412

October 30, 2002

Country of Origin Labeling

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

Attn: William T. Sessions, Associate Deputy Administrator

Stop 0249 Rom 2092-S

1400 Independence Ave. SW

Washington, D.C. 20250-0249

Dear Mr. Sessions:

I am a pecan grower in Montgomery County, Georgia. My family has been in the pecan business for over 70 years. I currently serve as Vice-President of the Georgia Pecan Growers Association and I am a board member of the Georgia Agricultural Commodity Commission for pecans. The majority of my farm's revenue comes from pecans. I am most concerned about the future of pecan production in Georgia and the United States as well.


I support the Country of Origin Labeling bill, however as it is written, pecans are not included. As a pecan grower, I urge the USDA to take appropriate action to include pecans in the Country of Origin Labeling. This action would not only benefit every grower in my home state, but it would also benefit pecan growers in every producing state in the U.S.

As you know, pecans are being imported into the U.S. from other countries. Most of these countries have little or no regulations in regard to pesticide use and safety. It is only fair for the American consumer to know the origin of the pecans that they purchase. The quality and safety of the foods produced in the U.S. is second to none! This is due to the efforts of the U.S. growers and the USDA.

I thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I believe that pecans were unfairly left out of the Country of Origin Labeling bill. I am very concerned about this matter.

Sincerely,

John L. Robison, Jr.


cc: Congressman Saxby Chambliss
under Secretary Bill Hawks